April Fool's Day Issue!

MIDDLE SCHOOL GOOD TIMES

Vol. 21 #4 Paw Paw Middle School Paw Paw, MI 49065 $.50

GIANT FELINE STALKS CITY

by k. nugteren

Kalamazoo- Some thing amazing happened today while Pure Cat Food Co. was testing their newest food. One of the cats tasting the food began to grow rapidly,

The giant feline broke out of the Pure Cat testing center and crashed through the city of Kalamazoo, destroying everything in its path.

Five different animal control centers had to be called in to capture the giant kitty.

The cat was brought down with huge doses of animal tranquilizer. A crane was used to lift the slumbering cat on to a flatbed semi trailer.

The cat has been secured in Waldo stadium while researchers determine what made the cat grow and what will be done with him now. see p.9 for photo

LUNCHES LIVELIER in PPMS

by b. hewitt

Maggie Coleman's lunch came alive Friday. Her toasted cheese sandwich began to moo while her chicken noodle soup clucked.

The noise frightened Maggie so much that she spilled her milk on the tray, setting off some more "mooing."

Maggie's whole table was in chaos. When the aides came over to see what was wrong, they fainted at the very idea.

After they recovered, the lunch was taken outside and burned until all the mooing and clucking stopped.

EIGHTH GRADE OPTIONAL ...

by j. conway

Many changes have taken place at PPMS, most of them dealing with the shortage of money. Lately, though, the school board has taken a drastic measure. They have declared 8th grade optional. By making that so, they will save a whole year's worth of money for use in computer labs and possibly for a new building.

Taking 8th grade out will have many benefits for the students. Their classes will be smaller and teachers will be able to focus their attention on all students individually. Many more hands-on activities will be possible. Because the science MEAP was given in the 8th grade previously, it will now be given in the 9th grade.

Many teachers will be out of work as a result of this change. However, the school board has taken steps to give these displaced teachers custodial engineering or tutoring as alternative jobs.

To be eligible to skip 8th grade, students willl need to have a 3.0 average in all academics and get

from p.1
a signature from each teacher indicating that they have the ability to do the work.

DOBBS RETURNS TO NAVY

by a. creameans

That's right, folks. You heard it here first. All you people who were hoping to have Mrs. Dobbs for algebra next year , sorry. It won't happen because Mrs. Dobbs will be going back to the Naval Academy.

With her expertise in sailing, we wouldn't be surprised if she moves up from the crew quickly.

She'll be packing her things for September. She will enter intensive training for three months before she goes out to sea.

Be sure to say good-bye to her before the end of the year.

WHO ATE MOUSCHI?

by c. vyverman

Peter's cat was a nice friendly thing. But then it met Mr. Dussel . At first we suspected Dussel ate it but he couldn't because his sneezing would have given him away. That leaves Mr. Van Daan who was always hungry and hated the cat.

VO-TECH VISIT VIVISECTS KIDS

by c. vyverman

Scott Wielenga and Corey Vyverman were examining the robots in the machine departments at the vo-tech center when the robots malfunctioned. They went wack.

Vyverman was vivisected into little pieces while Wielenga was wounded on the right leg and lost two fingers. Vyverman's condition is doubtful; Wielenga is rest ing in Florida this week.

TOWER WALLS DECLARED STRONGER THAN PPMS WALLS

by s. boucher

PAW PAW- The school board was examining Paw Paw Middle School at the same time the Science Olympiad was going on.

The Olympics students were testing their tower only to find that they could prove to the board the ir tower will hold more weight than the school itself.

Maybe we should move into one of the towers.

BEHIND THE LOUNGE DOORS

by m. rains

Students always think teachers are talking about them in the lounge, but is it true? I don't think so.

Teachers always write papers and eat in there. With the door always shut on us, how can we know what's going on. This reporter is here to tell you Mr. Topp takes naps and Mrs. Smith drinks coffee and talks.

What do you think happens in there?

No Redskins... New Team Name INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

by a. goodman

The Redskins were forced into a name change this week after a lawsuit filed claiming the name was in violation of Native American rights. The school board, however, chose to retain the Native American idea and has voted to call the team the Paw Paw Indigenous Peoples.

The cheerleaders have gone on

strike claiming the new name is too hard to spell and that crowds will lose interest after the letter d.

Jersey makers are also upset because the new name is too long to put on a football jersey and still be readable from a gooddistance.

A new banner will have to be hung in the gym as well as new murals and new floor mates and ceiling tiles, which will be too small to spell the new name.

BRADY BUNCH REVIEWED

by m. frazier

If you want to take a nap and pay for it, then the Brady Bunch movie is for you. Mike Brady was a little strange. Carol, played by Shelly Long, was the mom who had the answer for everything. Marsha and Gregg were pretty normal. Jan was obsessed with getting attention. Peter needs to get his voice under control. Cindy needs speech therapy. And Bobby didn't even speak.

Think it could have been a little more exciting? So do I.

MR. AUBRY'S RETIRING? NOPE

Rumor was going around that Mr. Aubry was retiring. When Michelle Rains and I went to talk to him about his retirement, he said that he was not retiring. He told us that he wouldn't retire for probably another eight years. So you people who thought he was retiring. put it out of your minds because Mr. Aubry is staying where he is.

by b. hewitt and m. rains

HERMIT CRABS

by t. freeman

Never waking from
their almond shells
the drowsy creatures
only wake for their
only need, water. One
is the aggressor,
flipping his companion
on his back, just for
a chance
to sleep in
his rightful corner.

PPHS Students Lay EGGS

PPHS students laid eggs. The juniors taking child development were given eggs to take care of for a week. In that wek they had to take care of that egg as if it were a real baby.

They had to make things for their children if they wanted extra credit. One person I spoke with was Jessica Martin whose egg was named Austin Matthew. He had his own room, which had a bed, a tv, a couch and a nightstand. She really spoiled him!

If your egg were to break and die, you could be taken to "court" and charged with murder...unless your egg died from natural causes.

In warning, you too when you are a sophomore or junior, could lay an egg by b. hewitt

HERMIT DISCOVERED IN BASEMENT OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

by a. goodman

A hermit was recently found living in the middle school basement. He was discovered by a

HERMIT continues

a janitor who was shocked and fled.

The hermit was living off of dead pigeons and small mammals, which thrive in the basement, and water that leaks through from the floors above.

He also bathed in the boiler, which, says maintenance, explains the odors floating throughout the building.

The hermit also made a little bit of money helping with food service when he shared various foods from the basement environment.

SEVEN FOOT BAT FOUND inPP

by m. frazier

PAW PAW- Paw Paw is very famous now due to a seven-foot bat found in the middle school.

A resident of Paw Paw, Mandi Smith, found the bat sitting outside her door. (the bat had been escorted out of the middle school second floor earlier that afternoon.) "At first", says Smith, "I was scared out of my mind, but then I realized it was only a bat. I yelled for my husband and we called the police.".

Arriving police were surprised to see this bat. Lt. John Clardy said,"I couldn't believe my eyes. The bat was bigger than I am."

The nature center sent over a BIG truck to bring it back. "We are doing many tests to see how he got so huge and then take him to a zoo", said veterinarian Marsha Tilk.

WHAT YOUR CHICKEN NUGGETS REALLY ARE by p. wheat

Many have hypothesized on the subject of but one theory in particular stands out.

In winter and in early spring, you can see pigeons perching on top of the chimneys of the M.S.. What are they doing up there? Keeping warm , of course.

Some, however, get too warm and they dry out. These dry, dead pigeons fall down the chimney where the lunch caret is waiting for them. Each day the cooks go down to the basement to collect them.

They prep them each day around 10:15 in time for lunch. First they pull out the feathers with pliers. After this has been done, the cooks pole the eyes out for use later as "green" peas. (a little food coloring goes a long way.)

Then comes the best part. : ripping the skin off the pigeon, butchering them, cutting off the fat (to use it for frying the nuggets) and thewhole meal finds its way to your lunch tray. Neat.

GOOD TIMES APRIL FOOL'S DAY

STAFF : PAtti Wheat, Casey Kerns, Sam Allen, Kim Holcomb, Angelina Holt, Andrew Alexander, Natalie Alden, Lindsey Forward, Joy Shinabarger, Dan Shreve, Denyse Varnesdeel, Tabitha STaggs, Sarah Lounsbury, Jack Conway, BRandon Hewitt, Michelle Rains, Angela Creameans, Bethany Howell, Jon Ayres, Ahlea Streich, Megan Abbott, Kerrie Hamilton, Missy Johnson, Tess Terpstra, Winonah La GRande, Justin Avery, Angela Reidt, Andy Goodman, Todd Freeman, Steve Boucher, Brent Latta, Rosemary Beyer, and Heather Houston

DEUTSCHE KLASSE

Every Thursday, 7th hour about 30 students get together for one purpose. German class. We've learned Hoflichkeit (courtesy), Klasse Objekte (classroom objects) ,und Geographie. (geography) Some of our favorite acitivities include our German penpals in Breitenberg and that lovable alien character who eat clocks (go figure!) Well, tschuss! (so long.) by a. g.

BUGS

Bugs bugs
They drive you nuts
They fly and fly
Around you til you
Get dizzy.
Bugs, bugs
They drive you nuts
Til you move
Away from them.
Bugs, bugs I
Wish they were
Useful.
Don't you?
by t sirrine

LEE, JENNY, and KATE WINNERS IN ESSAY CONTEST

First place in the America and Me contest went to Lee Krefman. Winning first place for PPMS means Lee's essay goes on to the state level to compete with 8th grade writers from all over Michigan. IF chosen for the top ten, he could win from $500 to $1000 dollars and a trip to Lansing. Lee's name will be engraved on the trophy in the lobby display case. Second place went to Jenny Jennings and third place to Kate O'Keefe. The judges in Lansing selected first through third place from the ten essays Mrs. Swanson sent them

DEAR SAM,

I hate school and am going to drop out... what can I do til then? . Please help me?

HELP

DEAR HELP,

Get it together like your brother Bob. Get a haircut and find a job.

DEAR SAM,

I'm so depressed and confused. I want to go with someone but they don't notice me.

Your friend,

Bummed

DEAR BUMMED,

I don't think you should throw your life away by worrying about boys. That's a waste of time.

DEAR SAM,

I have a new friend... well she's really my old friend but we're becoming friends again. I also have another friend but I don't like her. How do I get rid of her?

WHaTTA DO?

DEAR WHAT,

Why do you want to get rid of her? Who do you know who has too many friends? Is that possible? To have too many friends? If you want to be away from her, don't call her or go out of your way. to be with her but ... from the tone of your letter you sound willing to be rude to her... she's better off without

you as a friend.

DEAR SAM,
My dog got hit by a car. Stupid mutt. I told him to stay away from the road.
MISS MY MUTT
DEAR MISS,
Get a new dog and forget about the old one. P.S. Don't let the new one get near the road.
DEAR SAM,
I'm going to break up with my boyfriend at the next dance. Do you think I'm cruel?
CRUEL?
DEAR CRUE,
Why wait til then? Go for it now and give him a chance to be hurt earlier... If you really don't like him anymore, why wait til he takes you to the dance? Can't you afford the $2.50?
DEAR SAM,
Why do all the teachers give so much homework? Why are they mean sometimes? And why does the office make you pay for copies? I don';t think it's fair. I want to protest this but I don't want to get in trouble. What should I do?
??
DEAR"??".
Life is full of questions. What seems unfair to you may seem just right to the teachers...What makes you think the copies in the office should be free? Are they free at the post office? or a Quick Print places? You sound like you need a break.. the stress is too great.. lucky for you spring break starts today.

DEAR SAM,
I want the newspaper for free
CHEAP
DEAR CHEAP,
Walk the dog or do chores because you're not getting it for free.

SURVEY SAYS? BLUE M& M's

We polled over two hundred people in the middle school and discovered that blue was the overwhelming first pick of all of you. when it comes to new m & m colors.

Purple ran a very distant second and almost no one wanted pink. One person suggested plaid and one person didn't see any point in changing the color at all

HOW WILL WE SPEND BREAK?

Dan Fox will go to the basketball courts with his friends. Mike Huckabee will go to the Power Ranger Festival. Mark Pardike will stay home watching tv. and sleeping.

J.B. Thorstensen will go to Aspen, CO and ski. Mrs A.. Smith says she'll be home studying. Mrs. Swanson's heading for PA to visit her mom. Mr. Rue plans to cut wood and do home repair. Look out Red Green.

Eric Ridderbos plans to se Shedd's Aquarium while Nick Owsiany will sleep. Nellie Kuntz is headed for Kentucky to her grandpa and grandma's.

Nathan Kalmbach will play Nintendo and ride a four wheeler. Abby Wolownik will be home since she's in Florida this week.

Ryan Shannon will go to Minnesota.

Jenna Wright will be in the sunny Bahamas next week while Nick Goodman goes to St. Louis. Patti Wheat expects to be in Paw Paw working. Heidi Begnoche is flying to Oklahoma and then going with her aunt and uncle to a wedding in California...and to visit Disneyland.

Mrs. Beyer will be in Sarasota, Florida with the whole family. Charlie Melichor will be at home. Kevin Welsh heads out for Chicago. Tonya Ramsey's going to a friend's house for the week to experience how she lives. Laura Monroe will go to her cousin's for two days and to Detroit for the weekend.

Marcus Boucher will be in Houston, Texas for the week. Nick Oliva will be fishing and Jeff Stull will be on his basketball court. Tony Borello is planning a party and then going to Evansville, Indiana for Easter. Anne LaPine plans to sleep and horsebackride. Catherine Walker heads for the mall.

Matt Smith will go to New York and Alan Collius will head for the Ramada in Benton Harbor. Jack Conway says he's not spending it all at one place. He's conservative. He does suggest you go to his garage to see Sik Ox, a garage band. play.

Teresa Holtsclaw will be at her sister's helping take care of her new baby. Mark Houghton will be playing paintball games and froggin. Jimmy Hagg is heading over to Jack's to practice with Sik Ox band in his garage .(see above.)

THANK YOU PTO

The Good Times is being brought to you by a new computer that the newspaper and PTO bought this month. Thanks to the PTO's picking up two-thirds of the cost , the newspaper staff now has an IBM compatible computer.... and are we ever thankful and happy to have it!

DARE TO DREAM the IMPOSSIBLE

Pick a wish, find a dream
Choose a wishing star;
Let your hopes and spirits soar
High and free and far.
Reach for the unreachable,
Stretch to the heavens.
Know no dream you treasure
Is too far or high.
Believe in the impossible
For only those who
Dare to dream the impossible
Can make a dream come true.
by t. sirrine

Science Olympians Place Third and HEAD for STATE MEET

by k. rushing

Ken allowed us to take his observations for our story.. To find out who places what place , see the Pride and Progress this month.

The morning we left for the regionals, Mr. Lutz was very careful to double-check everything we had to bring: the tower, goggles, the mousetrap vehicle etc. When we arrived we settled down in front of the Paw Paw High School team as we listened to new rules and time settings. At first everyone seemed to be lost.

All the alternates, like myself, went with the coaches to help set up

the Metric Mastery which they had to referee. I took off and met up with Erin (Jordan) who just got finished with Road Scholar with David. (Williams.) They were saying how easy it was when they got to use Michigan maps for their work with topographical maps.

At 10:15 we reported back to the Metric Mastery room to help watch the contestants who might use their fingers to measure when you were only supposed to estimate. I didn't stick around for the high school events.

Meeting up with other kids, some of us checked the scoreboard and saw we were in second place. That helped our spirits. Dave, Erin and I went to have lunch. and proceeded to the small gym where Jonathan (Hughes) was getting ready to throw his airplane in Aerodynamics.

At first his plane was disqualified so he had to make a new plane... one that was longer at the wings..had to be 20cm. or more. With the new design his plane did not stay up as long as the first one. It only did 4.97 seconds and we were sure it had no chance. Watching other people we saw they couldn't pass 5 seconds either so may be we had a shot.

The scoreboard showed we were in third place behind Hartford and Three Rivers.

We watched the trajectory event which got all mixed up by shooting at a target with the wrong then putting too much pressure and shooting over the same target... so we didn't do very well. Centerville crept within 6 points of our third place with that.

The egg drop was next and the ref was saying how well designed ours was and it may have been the best he had seen. With the wind resistance the egg drop had moved away from the target giving us 4th place.

We all gathered in the big gym after that and the tension was so great that you had to cut it with a chainsaw. The judge went through the awards giving out lst - 4th place medals and 5th - 8th place ribbons. When they got down to announcing the top three teams (the ones that would go to state), every one of us was crossing our fingers and praying. When they called out Paw Paw at third place, we went nuts. Hartford was second and Three Rivers was first.

For high schools, Paw Paw came in first .

I was happy I went but not to enthused about doing nothing. I hope for the state that some of the alternates will get to do more. I hope we do really well in the state and maybe, just maybe we'll go on to the nationals....

SEVERAL PERSONALITY EGGS were submitted but the winning ones were Ren and Stimpy , Mickey Mouse , Willie Nelson and Albert Eggstein, Einstein, that is. drawn by Todd Freeman, Brandon Hewitt,

Brent Latta, and Andy Goodman. See p.9 and 10 for drawings. Artists, see Mrs. Swanson for prizes.

A.SMITH JOINS NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL TEAM Next Fall

by a. creameans

The Notre Dame Football council has asked A. Smith to coach the N.D. football team. Yes some of you thought she would play but they needed her brains more.

When they first asked her she fainted . It was a dream come true.

She and her husband will live in a condo in South Bend. What a change from teaching, was what she said when I asked her ,"How will it feel?"

Mrs. Smith can't wait to start on her new career. She will be leaving in three weeks and she'll be training until fall. Say good- bye to Mrs. Smith and we hope it all works out for her!

LUTZ COLLECT LOTS OF TOYS

by t.staggs, s.lounsbury d.varnesdeel

Mr. Lutz has been the object of much research by several sixth graders who have concluded that he plays with all of the following toys: Polly pockets, G.I. Joes, Power Rangers...especially the red and green ones... Barney, X-men and he even has his own Easy Bake Oven..(.probably for all that modeling clay he collected during conferences.)

You might as well confess to it since the whole world now knows of your addiction to toys...

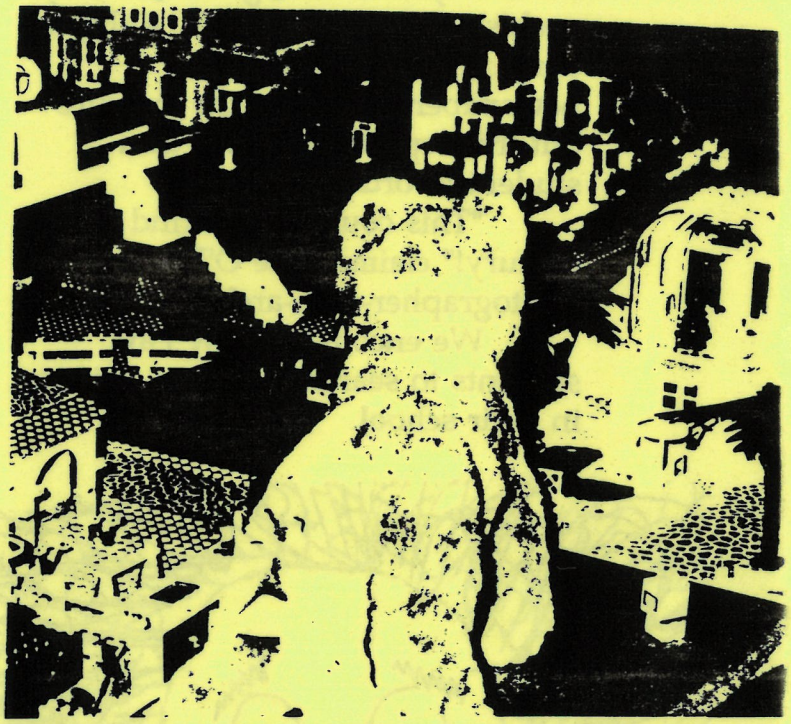
(Does that include paper airplanes, mousetrap cars, and towers built for strength?)

Mr. Aubry E.T.'s OLDER BROTHER?

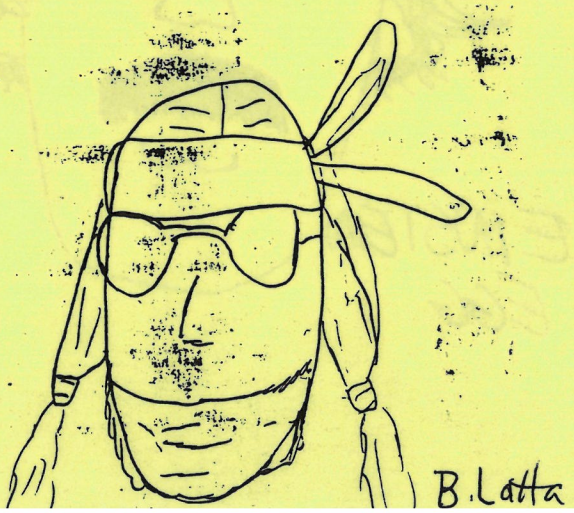
by a. reidt

Early this week Mr. Aubry revealed to this reporter during eighth grade lunch that he was indeed E.T.'s older brother A.T. Since this is his last year as principal here, it seemed only natural that he would remove the mask and let us all in on the truth. Now you know.

see picture p.9



Feline moving in on cit



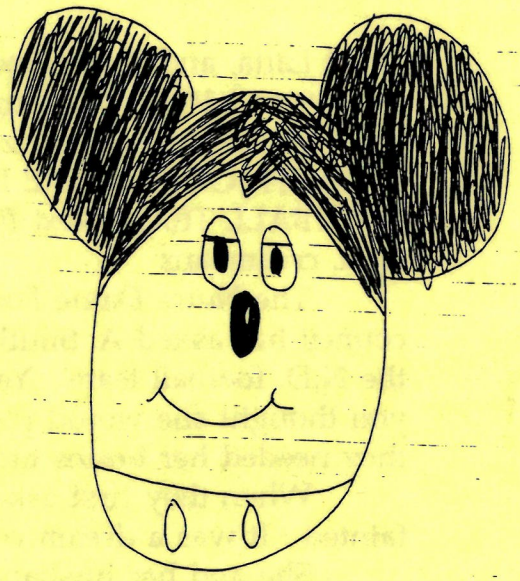
CAVE PAINTING FOUND on M.S. BASEMENT WALLS by w.lagrande photo by k. o'keefe

Recently an ancient mural was discovered covering part of one wall back in the last basement room behind the old furniture.

It depicts a scene which we believe was painted by ancient peoples. We now feel we can more accurately date the age of this very prehistoric building. Mr. Aubry is denying all magazines and newspapers access to the treasure but this reporter enrolled as a student in order to see it.

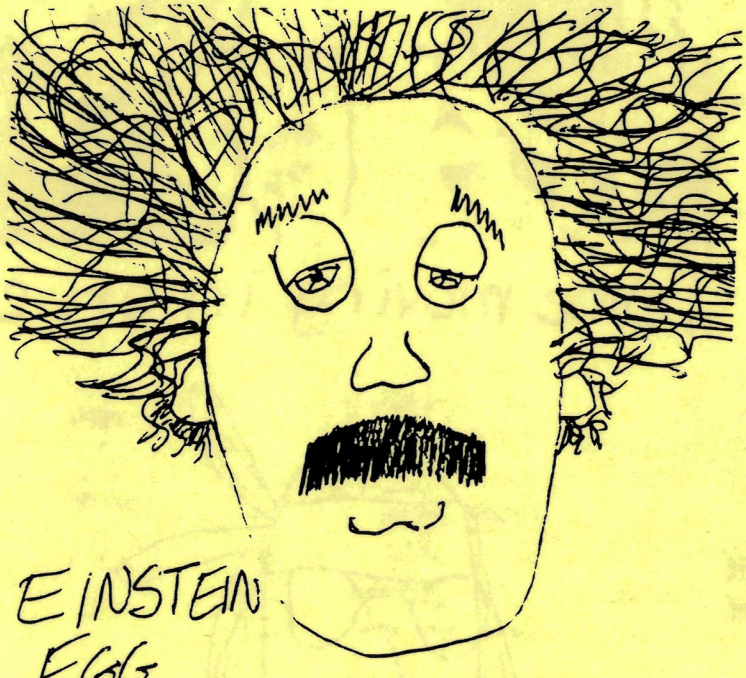
"This could be the find of the century!" claims Kate O'Keefe, photographer-cum-archaeologist.

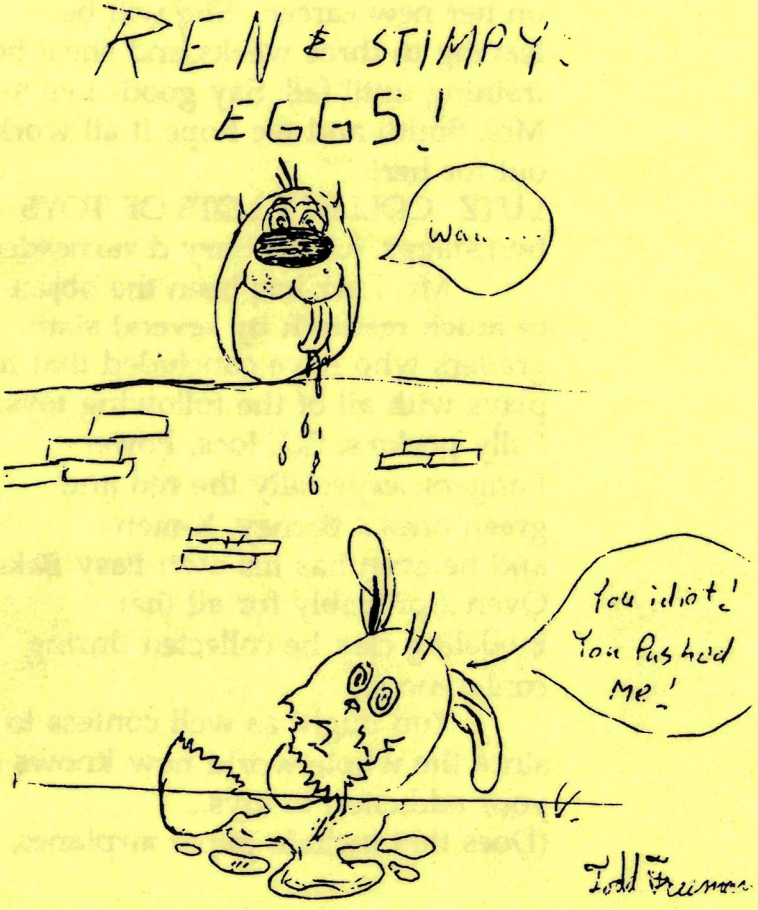
We encourage Paw Paw students to search for other artifacts in their school.



Mickey egg

by Brandon Hewitt



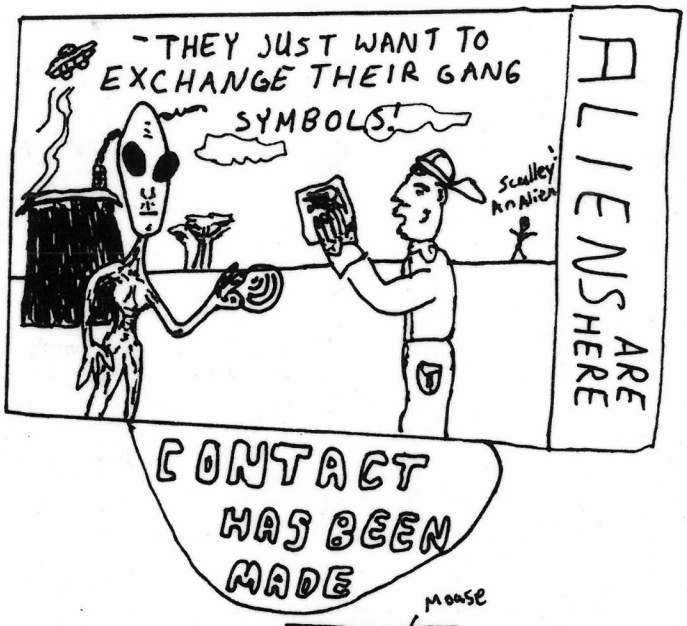


SCHOOL WIDE

DISASTER!

- Paint chips just one day may fall!

CAVE PAINTINGS FOUND IN BASEMENT! Exclusive photos!



Mouse steals mousetrap car, to Olympians dismay!